

Large Group



I Wonder...

LESSON 11: LARGE-GROUP

Why does God want me to respect my teacher and why do I need school?

MAIN IDEA

Students today do not automatically respect their teachers as an authority in their life. The truth is that God has established the teacher as an authority in the lives of the children, and the teacher is a gift who brings the light of learning to each one. Also, students may feel that they are learning useless information in school, but they do not know what their future holds. They may well need the things they are learning some day—for work, in an emergency, or just for fun and general well being.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Romans 13:1
- James 4:14-15
- Proverbs 5:13-14
- Psalm 139:16b

BIBLE VERSE

Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.

2 Timothy 2:23-24, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10 – 15 minutes)



Play large-group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are any changes and additions needed for the Large-Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small-group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Light bulb, wrapped up in nice wrapping paper
- Paper, 1 sheet per child
- Pens or pencils, 1 per child
- Blank note cards, 1 per child
- Assortment of markers

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10 – 15 minutes)

REVIEW

Quickly review last week's lesson and Bible verse:

- We have the power to stop arguments by refusing to answer and walking away.
- We can also prevent arguments by working to build others up with what we say instead of tearing them down.
- Review Proverbs 15:18

OBJECT LESSON: A VALUABLE GIFT?

Before the activity begins, give the wrapped light bulb to one of the other leaders. As you are finishing up your review of the (optional) Bible verse, have the other leader ready to leave the room and then re-enter carrying the light bulb.

The other leader will say, **Someone in the hall wanted me to give you this gift.**

Act surprised and excited about the gift. Open it slowly and with great anticipation. You may even let a student or two help you open it. Try to raise the level of excitement and anticipation as high as you can.

Once it is open, say, **A light bulb? A light bulb! Who would give us a light bulb? What kind of a silly gift is that?**

At this point, the leader who brought the gift into the room should again interrupt and suggest, **Well, a light bulb is very useful.**

Say, **You are right. It is pretty useful.**

Ask the students, **What do light bulbs do? How often do you use a light bulb in your house? What would life be like without light bulbs?**

Say, **Let's try a couple things with the lights on and with the lights off.**

Turn the lights off, and ask each student to find a partner. Ask them to study their partner's shoes and to describe them. Turn the lights on. Were they accurate in their description?

Give each student a piece of paper and a pen(cil). Ask them to write, "Light bulbs are a useful gift" on their papers. Now turn the lights on. How did their writing turn out?

Say, **Sometimes we receive gifts that we may not be very excited about, but they are very useful and helpful gifts.** Read Romans 13:1 aloud with the students, and explain that God has given us authorities in our lives as a gift to us.

WHO ARE THE AUTHORITIES IN YOUR LIFE?

Ask the students to think about whom God has put in their life as an authority besides their parents. Lead them to conclude that their teacher is one of the most important authorities in their lives besides their parents. Their teachers are a gift from God.

Ask these questions about their teachers:

- **Who are some of the teachers that God has put in your life?**
- **Is it always easy to respect them?**
- **What are some of the things they have taught you?**
- **What can you do to show more respect and gratitude?**

WRAP IT UP

Distribute a blank note card (or construction paper) and some markers to each child. Ask them to write a brief thank you note to their teacher and give it to them the next day.

Pray with the students and dismiss them into small groups. (Note: The (optional) Bible verse will be introduced in small group today.)

Games



Play large-group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Balloons
- Printout 1, 1 per child or group

LARGE-GROUP GAME: FREEZE TAG

Materials: None

How to play: The objective of freeze tag is for the player who is “it” to tag as many other players as possible and freeze them (make them stop moving) before they reach a safe zone or the game ends. Designate an open area for the game to be played. Determine who will be the first player who is “it” (consider more than one person depending on your group size and space).

The person who is “it” starts the game by chasing other players and attempting to tag them by touching them. When a player is tagged by this player, they must freeze in place and cannot move until they are unfrozen.

Players who are frozen can be unfrozen by other unfrozen players who touch them. This can be done either by a designated “unfreezer” or any unfrozen player.

(Optional) Designate specific areas as safe zones where players cannot be tagged or frozen. These safe zones can be marked by cones, lines drawn on the ground, or any other easily recognizable method.

The game ends when either all players are frozen (making the player who is “it” the winner) or after a predetermined time limit. After each round, the player who was tagged last becomes the new player who is “it” for the next round.

LARGE-GROUP GAME: BALLOON KEEP UP

Materials: Balloons

Object of game: To keep a balloon in the air for as long as possible using only your hands or other body parts (no catching or holding the balloon)

How to play: Gather all the players in the designated playing area. Choose one player to start as the “keeper”. This player stands in the center of the playing area. The remaining players spread out around the “keeper”. The “keeper” tosses a balloon into the air to start the game.

Players must use their hands or other body parts (except for catching or holding) to keep the balloon from touching the ground. The “keeper”’s role is to try to make it challenging for the other players by swatting or directing the balloon towards them.

If a player allows the balloon to touch the ground, they are out of the game for that round. The game continues until only one player remains, or you can play in rounds, rotating the role of the “keeper”.

For added fun, you can introduce variations such as:

- Using multiple balloons at once.
- Setting a time limit for each round and seeing how long players can keep the balloon(s) in the air.
- Playing with different rules for specific body parts allowed to touch the balloon (e.g., feet only).
- Introducing obstacles or challenges within the playing area.

LARGE-GROUP GAME: SCAVENGER HUNT

Materials: Printout 1 (item list), one per student or group

How to play: Prepare a list of items for the scavenger hunt. These items can be anything found within the playing area, such as specific objects, colors, or shapes.

Gather the players and explain the rules of the scavenger hunt. Let them know that they'll be searching for items on the list and that the first team or player to find all the items wins.

(Optional) Divide into Teams: Depending on the number of players, you can divide them into teams or allow them to play individually.

Distribute Lists: Give each team or player a copy of the scavenger hunt list. Make sure the items are clear and understandable.

Set a timer, and start the scavenger hunt. Players or teams must search the designated area to find the items on the list. They can work together or compete against each other, depending on how you've organized the game.

When a player or team finds an item on the list, they should mark it off. They can do this by crossing it out on their paper or taking a photo of the item with a smartphone.

The scavenger hunt ends when either a team or player finds all the items on the list or when the timer runs out.

Once the scavenger hunt is over, gather the players and review the lists to determine the winner. The team or player who found all the items first (or found the most items within the time limit) wins the game.

Celebrate the efforts of the players and reward the winners with prizes or recognition.



I Wonder...

LESSON 11: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

Why does God want me to respect my teacher and why do I need school?

MAIN IDEA

Students today do not automatically respect their teachers as an authority in their life. The truth is that God has established the teacher as an authority in the lives of the children, and the teacher is a gift who brings the light of learning to each one. Also, students may feel that they are learning useless information in school, but they do not know what their future holds. They may well need the things they are learning some day—for work, in an emergency, or just for fun and general well being.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Romans 13:1
- James 4:14-15
- Proverbs 5:13-14
- Psalm 139:16b

BIBLE VERSE

Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.

2 Timothy 2:23-24, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids, and help them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20 – 25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5 – 10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Sheets of paper (newspaper, construction paper, or regular printer paper)
- Tape (masking tape or clear adhesive tape)
- (Optional, depending on the age of the participants), scissors
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Brown grocery bag with the following items inside of it:
 - Pencil
 - Paperclip
 - First aid kit OR an adhesive band aid
 - Various small toys
 - Bible Verse Cards, 1 per child

Connect



Connect with the kids,
and show them that
they are heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group

ICEBREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group, or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

WHY DO I NEED SCHOOL?

Say, **Sometimes we may not feel like our teachers are a gift to us because we may think that we are learning things that we are never going to use.**

Ask, **Do any of you ever feel that way?**

Well, God wants us to pay attention and to learn all that we can. You never know what plans he has for your life as you follow him and when you might need something you are learning now.

ACTIVITY: BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Materials: Sheets of paper (newspaper, construction paper, or regular printer paper), tape (masking or clear adhesive tape), scissors (optional, depending on the age of the participants), ruler or measuring tape

Divide the kids into pairs, depending on the number of participants. Explain the rules of the challenge: **Each team has to build the tallest tower possible using only the paper and tape provided. The tower must be free-standing and stable enough to stand for at least 10 seconds once completed.**

Set a time limit for the challenge, if desired, to add excitement and urgency to the activity. Let the kids start building! Encourage them to work together, communicate effectively, and think creatively to construct their towers. As the kids build, walk around and provide guidance, encouragement, and support as needed. Offer suggestions to help them improve stability or brainstorm ideas for making their towers taller.

Once the time limit is up or all teams have completed their towers, have each team present their creation to the rest of the group. They can explain their design choices, any challenges they encountered, and how they overcame them.

Measure each team's tower using a ruler or measuring tape to determine the tallest one. Celebrate the accomplishments of all the teams, regardless of tower height. Acknowledge their efforts, creativity, and teamwork.

Say, **As you were building, you may have figured out that having a strong foundation is important to building a tall tower. Right now in school you are building a foundation that will help you in the future. It is not always exciting, and you can't always see why the things you are learning are important or useful, but later you will.**

Ask, **Has anyone seen a house or building being built? What is the first thing builders need to do when making a building?**

They need to start with a foundation. Many times, it is just a boring slab of concrete. It is not exciting or pretty, but it is very important. This is what school is like right now.

You are building a foundation, and it's important to build a strong one so that you can keep building on top of it.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20 – 25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

OBJECT LESSON: SEEING THE FUTURE

Show the students the paper bag with the objects inside (which they cannot see). Say, **The inside of this bag represents your future. There are lots of different things inside—things which you cannot see.**

- Ask a student volunteer to stand several feet away from you and the bag and try to guess what is inside it.
- Next allow another child to stand right next to the bag (but not touch it) and guess what is inside.
- Proceed to allow another student to touch the outside of the bag and try to feel what is inside to guess what is there.
- Finally, allow a student to reach inside the bag and feel the items inside.

After this, reveal the items to the group. Ask, **Was it easier to guess the items from far away or close up? Was it possible to guess all the items without seeing them?**

Say, **This is a bit like our future. There are some things that we are planning and anticipating that may come to be reality, but there are other things that will come as a total surprise.**

Ask, **What kinds of items were in the bag?** (Some were for safety or emergencies. Some were for fun. And some were just everyday items.)

In your life there will be some emergencies, some fun times, and some everyday kinds of times. Some of the things you are learning now you might use in your everyday job. Some of the things you might use in an emergency, and some may be just for fun.

GOD KNOWS

Read James 4:14-15 together. Consider asking a student to read the passage out loud for the group.

Ask,

- **Do you know what will happen tomorrow?** (No.)
- **Who knows what will happen tomorrow?** (God.)
- **Why is it important to pay attention and to do your best in school?**

God wants you to show respect to your teacher because you never know the ways in which what you are learning now may help you in your future.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5 – 10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Read through Psalm 139:16.

Ask, **Who knows us before anyone else?** (God) **Does God care about us, or does he ignore us?** (He cares enough to record each day of our lives.)

God not only cares about us and knows what is going on in our lives everyday, but he even knows what will happen in the future. God knows everything, and he chooses to have a relationship with us. It's important that we build a foundation not just through our education at school but also in our relationship with God. Just like we study at school, we can study the Bible to learn about God and who he is. We can pray and spend time talking with him. This is how we build our relationship with God.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Take the students' prayer requests, and pray with them. Be sure to pray that they learn to respect their teachers and appreciate them. Also, pray that they will value the knowledge they can gain in school and will work hard to learn.

(Optional) If time still remains, continue practicing the Bible verse.



I Wonder...

LESSON 11: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Why does God want me to respect my teacher and why do I need school?

MAIN IDEA

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BIBLE VERSE

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Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids, and help them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20 – 25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5 – 10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
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QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

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 - Bible Verse Cards, 1 per child

Connect



Connect with the kids, and help them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICEBREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

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WHY DO I NEED SCHOOL?

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Ask, **Do any of you ever feel that way?**

Well, God wants us to pay attention and to learn all that we can. You never know what plans he has for your life as you follow him and when you might need something you are learning now.

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Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20 – 25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

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Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5 – 10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

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RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Take the students' prayer requests and pray with them. Be sure to pray that they learn to respect their teachers and appreciate them. Also, pray that they will value the knowledge they can gain in school and will work hard to learn.

(Optional) If time still remains, continue practicing the Bible verse.

Bible Verse Cards

BIBLE VERSE

Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.

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Printout 1

CLASSROOM SCAVENGER HUNT LIST

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Pencil | 10. Glue stick | 18. Classroom plant |
| 2. Pen | 11. Calculator | 19. Bookshelf |
| 3. Notebook | 12. Dictionary | 20. Trash can |
| 4. Ruler | 13. Globe | 21. Classroom pet (if applicable) |
| 5. Eraser | 14. Map | 22. Computer or laptop |
| 6. Chalk | 15. Clock | 23. Paper clip |
| 7. Whiteboard marker | 16. Calendar | 24. Hand sanitizer |
| 8. Stapler | 17. Classroom rules poster | |
| 9. Scissors | World flags poster | |